Doubutsu no Oishasan

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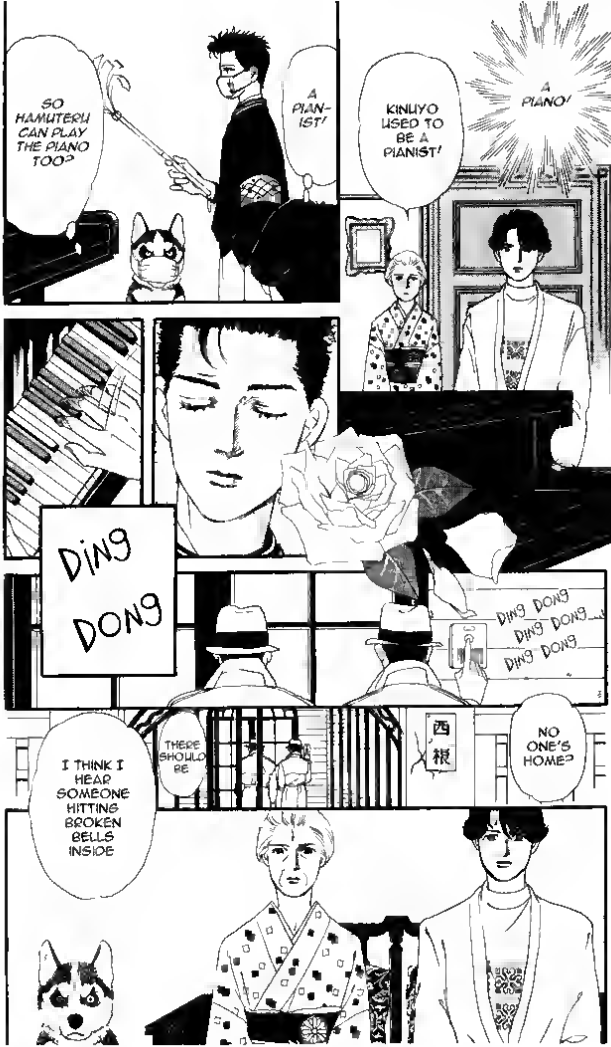
動物のお医者さん

Late at night, in the midst of a snowstorm.
RRRRRR
the telephone in the corridor of the Nishine house rang!
HELLO, WHO IS IT?
.....
CLICK
BEEP -- BEEP -- BEEP -- BEEP --

IT'S SO IRRITATING! HE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST APOLOGIZED FOR DIALING THE WRONG NUMBER!
I HAD JUST FALLEN ASLEEP AND WAS WOKEN UP BY THE CALL,
AND EVEN WALKED ALL THE WAY TO THE COLD CORRIDOR TO ANSWER IT
It does make people angry!
But luckily you didn't catch a cold!
Bastard! DO you know what time it is now?
IT WAS SCARY ENOUGH TO RECEIVE A CALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
I WAS AFRAID THE CALL WAS TO INFORM ME SOMEONE I KNOW HAD PASSED AWAY
OUR FAMILY PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE ANYONE WHO'S ABOUT TO DIE

.....
THAT'S TRUE!
KIMITERU YOU HAVEN'T PLAYED FOR A LONG TIME, PLAY A TUNE FOR ME!
THIS REMINDS ME OF KINUYO
IT SEEMS THAT HAMUTERU'S PARENTS AREN'T AROUND ANYMORE
Although, he still has relatives
KINUYO IS PROBABLY HAMUTERU'S MOTHER?


SO HAMUTERU CAN PLAY THE PIANO TOO?
A PIAN-IST!
KINUYO USED TO BE A PIANIST!
A PIANO!
DING DONG
DING DONG DING DONG... DING DONG
NO ONE'S HOME?
THERE SHOULD BE
I THINK I HEAR SOMEONE HITTING BROKEN BELLS INSIDE

THE PIANO NEEDS TUNING!
REALLY?
ALTHOUGH I HAVEN'T PLAYED IN FIVE YEARS, I STILL PLAY WELL.
YOUR SKILLS ARE GOOD, BUT
YOU STILL DARE SAY ARE YOU SERIOUS?
Can you still be considered the son of a pianist like this?
SHE GAVE UP BEING A MUSICIAN BECAUSE OF THIS CHILD.
THE LAST TUNING WAS DONE TEN YEARS AGO AND PROBABLY THE PIANO STRINGS HAVE RUSTED FROM THE LONG PERIOD OF DISUSE.
Ah! It's the doorbell
Did you hear anything?
You're really the son of a pianist?
WE'RE THE POLICE
DID YOUR DOG BARK FOR NO APPARENT REASON LAST NIGHT?

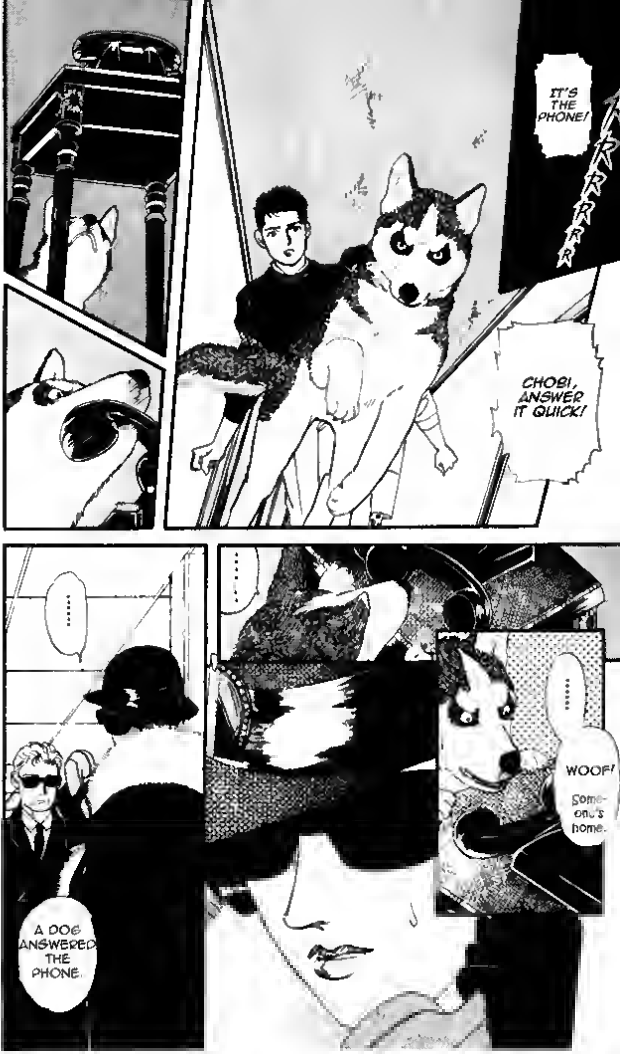
WE'RE IN JAPAN NOW
Didn't we just get off the plane?
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IN JAPAN
Ke ke ke ke
SHOULDN'T YOU CALL FIRST?
Jet-lagged
IT'S WINTER IN HOKKAIDO! THE WIRE POLES ARE ALL COVERED WITH SNOW. THE TELEPHONE LINES ARE ALSO NOT WORKING!
You're right it's winter too at Narita Airport*!

*T/N The main international airport serving the Tokyo area

YOUR NEIGHBORS' HOUSE WAS BURGLED LAST NIGHT!
YOUR NEIGHBORS SEEM TO HAVE GONE SKIING AND NO ONE'S HOME
I GET IT NOW!
WHAT?
THE CALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
THAT CALL WAS
FROM THE BURGLARS TO CHECK IF THE HOUSE IS EMPTY
AH, I'M GLAD I WOKE UP, IF NO ONE HAD ANSWERED THE CALL THE BURGLARS COULD HAVE BROKEN INTO OUR HOUSE
WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR THE BURGLARS TO STEAL.
Perhaps not but I definitely don't want to run into a burglar!
But with Chobi around I do feel safer
Really?
WE HAVE TO BOARD THE PLANE TO CHITOSE* SOON
I KNOW! I'LL MAKE THE CALL NOW.

*T/N The main airport near Sapporo (the capital of Hokkaido where Nikaidou and Masaki live)

Where else can you stay?
IF GRANDMOTHER'S GUESS IS CORRECT (THAT THE CALL WAS FROM THE BURGLARS TO CHECK IF THE HOUSE IS EMPTY), THEN SHOULDN'T IT BE OK TO PICK UP THE CALL?
DON'T WORRY! I'LL BE STAYING HERE TONIGHT!
Kimiteru prepare the flour. Nikaidou mix it with eggs.
(Calling him by name directly)
I'LL BE STAYING HERE AS WELL
SHALL WE PREPARE SOME WEAPONS FOR SELF-DEFENSE FIRST BEFORE WE SLEEP?
小麦粉
BUT YOUR HOUSE IS SO BIG, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NO ONE WILL HEAR THE PHONE RING! SOMETIMES NO ONE PICKS UP THE PHONE WHEN I CALL!
Woof, woof
I think the phone is ringing!
CHOBI, WHAT'S WRONG?


IT'S THE PHONE!
RRRRRR
CHOBI, ANSWER IT QUICK!
.....
.....
WOOF! Someone's home.
A DOG ANSWERED THE PHONE.

CHOBI, DID THE CALLER HANG UP BEFORE OR AFTER YOU BARKED?
I don't know either!
IF I FIND OUT WHO HE IS, I'LL DEFINITELY NOT SPARE HIM!
EASTARD/ OUR HANDS ARE ALREADY COVERED WITH FLOUR AND EGGS AND WE STILL RUSHED TO PICK UP THE PHONE, BUT HE STILL
THE CALLER HUNG UP
HELLO! THIS IS THE NISHINE HOUSEHOLD.
.....
IT'S ALL RIGHT! IT'S GOOD TO LIVEN UP THIS HOUSE A LITTLE
SO THIS MEANS THAT PROBABLY THE CALLER ONLY WANTED TO KNOW IF ANYONE'S HOME!

THE WEATHER HAS TURNED BAD
LET'S LIVEN UP THE HOUSE THEN!
HOW ABOUT PLAYING A TUNE ON THE PIANO?
NO NEED FOR THAT!
WHENEVER I LISTEN TO THE PIANO, I'LL BE REMINDED OF...
KINUYO?
UHM
THIS IS THE PIECE THAT WAS ALWAYS BADLY PLAYED IN THE DAILY CLASSES
THIS IS THE PIECE THAT WAS PLAYED INCORRECTLY AT THE NEWCOMERS CONCERT
I'LL BE REMINDED OF SUCH THINGS
ERIK SATIE
Come to think of it Kinuyo has always been a difficult child
Forget it! It's all in the past now!

I'VE ALREADY PRESSED THE DOORBELL SO MANY TIMES, HASN'T ANYONE HEARD IT?
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
That's because you're wearing sunglasses
SHOHEI, I'M HUNGRY! I FEEL SO HUNGRY I ONLY SEE DARKNESS BEFORE ME
ALTHOUGH IT'S VERY LATE, AT LEAST THE PLANE LANDED AT CHITOSE AIRPORT SAFELY
DING
DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
NO WAY! THEY STILL DON'T HEAR IT
THEY MUST BE IN THE ROOMS AT THE BACK
AH, THERE'S SOMEONE IN THERE!
LIFTING THE LEG
IS VERY DIFFICULT
NOW?
YOUR MOTHER BECAME A PIANIST UNDER SUCH CIRCUM-STANCES
Ah! this piece too this one as well
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. SHE'S NOW A VOCALIST

A mound of snow that formed due to snow falling from the roof
SWISH SWISH SWISH SWISH SWISH SWISH
EXCUSE ME
AH!
THERE'S WARM FOOD RIGHT IN FRONT OF US BUT WE JUST CAN'T FIND A WAY TO ENTER THE HOUSE
DON'T SAY IT LIKE WE'RE VAMPIRES. THINK OF SOMETHING QUICKLY!
SO YOUR MOTHER IS STILL ALIVE!?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOUR FAMILY DOESN'T HAVE ANYONE WHO'S ABOUT TO PASS AWAY?
Both of them are in Germany
SO IS MY FATHER
IT'S DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN. LET'S JUST SAY SHE'S ALWAYS DOING THINGS HER OWN WAY WITH A "NO ONE'S GOING TO DIE ANYWAY" ATTITUDE
Or we can say she's totally inconsiderate of others
That's right
AH
AH
AH
AH
AH
AH
AH
But I can't find any stick which can break the window.
Don't you have a weapon?

EU... BURGLAR!
NO! IT'S A MONSTER!
This is a pianist
PLEASE
OPEN THE DOOR QUICK
Wah
HELLO!
NIKAIDOU, THESE ARE MY PARENTS!

OF COURSE I WAS ANGRY!
WHEN I HEARD MUM'S ANGRY VOICE I WAS TOO SCARED TO SAY ANYTHING
I HEARD THAT MASAKI IS A VET NOW!
I FORGOT I MADE A CALL IN A HURRY BEFORE I LEFT, BUT THEN IT STRUCK ME THAT IT WAS LATE AT NIGHT IN JAPAN
WHY DID YOU COME BACK WITHOUT INFORMING ANYONE?
CONGRATULATIONS FOR OVERCOMING THE HURDLE
Elliott is scared ... is that ← happened 3 years ago
THAT'S TRUE! THIS IS A GIFT TO CONGRATULATE YOU FOR GETTING INTO UNIVERSITY!
I HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL I GRADUATE FIRST
Hamuteru's parents, who are still alive, left the next day just like that.
BYE BYE
WE STILL HAVE CONCERTS IN TOKYO AND OSAKA, SO WE'RE ONLY DROPPING BY SAPPORO
The police are still trying to catch the burglars!
My dog barks regardless of whom she sees!
WOOF! WOOF!
Poor cooperation between the police and the residents of this city.
The burglars?
Our dog doesn't bark regardless of whom she sees!
Whimper... Whimper...
WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE BURGLARS?
The dog didn't bark during the crime?!